Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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O R 261300Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7133 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PM GANDHI'S COMMENTS ON US ARMS POLICY

- 1. MRS. GANDHI TOLD THE INDIAN UPPER HOUSE (RAJYA SABHA) FEB 26 THAT 'NEW BELLIGERANCY' ON THE PART OF PAKISTAN (REFERRING TO BHUTTO'S CALL FOR A STRIKE BY KASHMIRIS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MRS. GANDHI AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH) WAS COINCIDENT WITH THE "BEGINNING A FRESH FLOW OF ARMS" TO PAKISTAN. IT WAS "SPECIOUS" SHE SAID TO ARGUE THAT ARMS SHOULD BE SUPPLIED TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE INDIA WAS DEVELOPING A SELF-SUFFICIENT DEFENSE INDUSTRY, AND "DISHONEST" TO ARGUE THE INDIAN NUCLEAR RESEARCH POSED A THREAT TO PAKISTAN.
- 2. THE US DECISION WOULD "REPOEN OLD WOUNDS AND HINDER THE PROCESS OF HEALING AND NORMALIZATION FOR WHICH WE HAVE WORKED SO PERSISTENTLY" WITH PAKISTAN. IT SHOWED THAT THE "POLICY MAKERS OF THAT GREAT COUNTRY CONTINUED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FALLACY OF EQUATING PAKISTAN AND INDIA. IT IS A POLICY WHICH HAS CAUSED TENSION IN THE SUBCONTINENT".

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3. COMMENT: MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS WERE MADE IN THE COURSE OF A LONG REFUTATION OF OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO THE OPENING ON PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK. THEY ELICITED APPLAUSE FROM THE MPS PRESENT BUT THERE WAS NO OPPORUTNITY FOR FURHTER QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PM. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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